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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Ludwig Bamberger,  
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Stockholm / Sweden

Stockholm, November 13th, 1950.

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Office of the United States  
High Commissioner for Germany,  
Frankfort a/M.

For the attention of the High  
Commissioner.

Sir,

To my great surprise I learnt some time ago that Mr. Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and his colleagues on the Board of the Krupp concern had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment - in the case of Mr. Krupp - also to confiscation of his entire fortune, by the judgment of Military Tribunal III dated July 31st, 1948.

During several decades I represented the Krupp interests both in Germany and elsewhere, last as director of the Eastern section, and thanks to this I maintained an intimate contact not only with the now deceased father of Mr. Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, but also with most of the leading persons in the Krupp organisation. My relationships with them were not restricted to collaboration in the business sphere. I had abundant opportunities for a personal contact with them, and was able to acquaint myself with their private opinions in matters of a political and a social nature. I was familiar with the personal views of the late Mr. Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach as regards the Nazi regime, and I know that he made representations to Hitler, together with the head of the Siemens concern, Mr. von Siemens, regarding the Nazi atrocities. Unfortunately, as he told me, without success. If certain of the Krupp chiefs became members of the Nazi party, they did so as a consequence of the strong pressure that was brought to bear on them in this respect by the Government and the Party.

I never had the slightest occasion to doubt of the attitude of these men, and for that matter, the attitude of the entire management, in social matters: on the contrary, welfare arrangements for the workers and staff were in general far superior to what I have observed elsewhere.

In confidential conversations, the late Mr. Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach referred repeatedly to his fears that the Hitler regime would lead us into war, and that this war would be a catastrophe for his firm, and for the whole of Germany.

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As regards the verdict of the Military Tribunal, it is not for me to make any criticism, but I feel I am bound to state my innermost conviction that brutality and inhuman practices were far from the true nature of the condemned men, and that they have only given in to the pressure of the Party and its officials if they have, as has been alleged, acted contrary to their duties as human beings.

In view of the above, I feel myself morally bound to petition you to pardon the following condemned men:

ALFRIED KRUPP, VON BOHLEN UND HALBACH  
x EDUARD HOUDREMONT  
ERICH MULLER  
x FRIEDRICH JANSSEN  
MAX INN  
KARL EBERHARDT  
HEINRICH KORSCHAN  
FRIEDRICH VON BUELLOW  
HEINRICH LEHMANN  
HANS KUPRE

I am convinced that a merciful pardon in these instances would not redound to the benefit of any unworthy person.

Very truly yours

L. Bamberger

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